

Message Text

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73

ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 AID-05 TRSE-00 DEAE-00 L-02

IGA-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00

IO-10 /038 R

DRAFTED BY EA/TB - CLSTERMER:MFG

APPROVED BY S/NM - DERNST

AID/EA - MREED (DRAFT)

AID/N - MWAMPLER

S/NM - CBUCK

EA/RA - JZEROLIS

EA/TB - GBROBERTS

CUSTOMS - DOMALIE (INFO)

TREASURY - MBACH (INFO)

DEA/IO - WYATES (SUBS)

----- 081761

P 222247Z NOV 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, TH

SUBJECT: FY 76 NARCOTICS PROGRAM SUBMISSION

REF: (A) BANGKOK 17791

(B) BANGKOK 17920 (NOV. 1973)

1. WE APPRECIATE ADDITIONAL EXPLANATION PROVIDED REFTEL FOR VARIOUS ENFORCEMENT PROJECTS AND ESPECIALLY YOUR CONSIDERED VIEWS ON CROP AND INCOME SUBSTITUTION PROGRAMS. WE ASSUME THAT AMBASSADOR VANCE AND S/NM PROJECT OFFICER RAFFERTY WILL DISCUSS BOTH ASPECTS OF OUR NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES WITH ALL CONCERNED MISSION ELEMENTS DURING THEIR BRIEF VISIT. THIS MESSAGE IS DESIGNED AS AN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTERIM RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN

REFTEL AND HOPEFULLY WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE DIALOGUE
ALREADY ESTABLISHED.

2. REF A PARA 2 (A): TRAWLER PROGRAM. YOUR DESCRIPTION
OF THE INTERNAL TNPD ADMINISTRATIVE CONSTRAINTS ON
IMPLEMENTING THIS PROGRAM MAY BE PRIMARILY LEGAL BUT THEY
APPEAR FORMIDABLE AND, EVEN IF OVERCOME, MAY BE A CON-
TINUING SOURCE OF DIFFICULTY. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THIS
PROPOSAL STEMS FROM THE INTRINSIC PROBLEM OF IDENTIFYING
NARCOTICS-LADEN TRAWLER TRAFFIC BETWEEN THAILAND AND HONG
KONG. WE QUESTION, HOWEVER, AND ASSUME THE SAME ISSUE
AROSE IN YOUR CONSIDERATIONS, WHETHER A MARINE POLICE-

MANNED TRAWLER CAN LONG RETAIN ITS "COVER" WHEN ENGAGED
IN SURVEILLANCE OPERATIONS OF THE KIND DESCRIBED. WE
NOTE WITH FAVOR YOUR VIEW TO MAKE FURTHER PURCHASES
CONTINGENT ON THE EFFECTIVE USE OF THE FIRST TRAWLER,
BUT WE STILL WONDER WHETHER THE HIGH RISK OF DETECTION
JUSTIFIES THE RESOURCES EXPENDED. WE REMAIN CONCERNED
OVER MARINE POLICE MAINTENANCE CAPABILITIES IN VIEW PAST
OPS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS DIVISION. YOUR FURTHER COMMENTS
WOULD BE WELCOMED.

3. REF A PARA 2 (B): CAMERAS. GIVEN THE FULL EXPLANA-
TION AND DESCRIPTION OF THE SPECIALIZED SURVEILLANCE
CAMERAS DESIRED BY DEA, WE HEREBY APPROVE THE PROJECT.
AS FOR THE AERIAL CAMERAS, HOWEVER, WE WOULD APPRECIATE
KNOWING WHETHER RTG AGENCIES, LIKE POLICE AVIATION OR
THE ROYAL SURVEY DEPARTMENT, MAY HAVE THIS PHOTOGRAPHIC
CAPABILITY AND, IF SO, WHETHER THE TNPD CAN MAKE USE OF
THOSE RESOURCES IN THE ABSENCE OF NEW EQUIPMENT. WE AGREE
WITH THE NATURE OF WORK TO BE PERFORMED AND, IN THE FINAL
ANALYSIS, WILL APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF THESE AERIAL
CAMERAS PROVIDED OTHER POSSIBLE RTG SOURCES OF SUPPLY
HAVE BEEN EXHAUSTED.

4. REF A PARA 2 (C): VEHICLE PURCHASE. WE REGRET
FAILING TO NOTICE THAT THE PURCHASE OF ADDITIONAL SEDANS,
MOTORCYCLES, AND RADIOS IN SUBSEQUENT FISCAL YEARS WOULD
BE DEPENDENT ON AN FY 76 EVALUATION OF THE PILOT PROJECT
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UNDER CONSIDERATION.

5. REF A PARA 3 (A): AIRCRAFT. WE CONCUR IN YOUR
RECOMMENDATION THAT PROCUREMENT OF AN AIRCRAFT BE DROPPED
FROM THE FY 75 PROGRAM.

6. REF A PARA 3 (B-D): PATROL BOATS. WE AWAIT YOUR
REVISED REQUEST AND JUSTIFICATION FOR SMALLER PATROL

BOATS AND ACCOMPANYING TRAILERS. WE RECEIVED FROM US CUSTOMS A COPY OF YOUR EARLIER STUDY ON THE RTG CUSTOMS MARINE FLEET, INCLUDING THE PICTORIAL DISPLAY OF SMUGGLER BOATS THAT HAD BEEN CAPTURED. THE ACCOUNT CONCERNING RTG MAINTENANCE CAPABILITY OF ITS EXISTING FLEET GAVE US THE MOST CONCERN ABOUT THE WISDOM OF SUPPLYING ADDITIONAL AND PERHAPS MORE SOPHISTICATED BOATS IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY APPARENT EFFORT TO RECTIFY THIS PROBLEM. THUS, YOUR DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANS UNDERWAY TO UPGRADE RTG MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR CAPABILITY WAS WELCOME NEWS AND WE WILL BE INTERESTED IN CURRENT PLANNING. WE THINK IT MAKES GOOD SENSE TO HAVE THIS CAPABILITY ESTABLISHED BY THE TIME ANY NEW BOATS ARRIVE ON THE SCENE.

7. REF A PARA 3 (E): CUSTOMS VEHICLES. WE WILL AWAIT YOUR OVERALL MISSION EVALUATION OF THE CUSTOMS PROJECT IN EARLY FY 75 ON THE PROPOSAL FOR A TOTAL OF 47 MORE VEHICLES.

8. REF A PARA 4: SUMMARY OF FUNDS REQUESTED. SUBJECT TO THE ABOVE CONSIDERATIONS, FUNDS WILL BE RESERVED FOR PLANNING PURPOSES ACCORDING TO THE PRIORITY OUTLINED.

9. REF A PARA 5: AS TECHNICAL SUPPORT FUNDS OBLIGATED TO DATE HAVE BEEN FOR INCOME SUBSTITUTION PROGRAMS, ALL OF WHICH ARE NOW UNDER REVIEW (SEE BELOW), NO ACTION ON THIS REQUEST CAN BE TAKEN AT THIS TIME.

10. REF A PARAS 6-8: CROP AND INCOME SUBSTITUTION: WE UNDERSTAND THAT AMBASSADOR VANCE HAS RECEIVED SUGGESTED GUIDELINES FOR HIS APPROVAL SETTING FORTH CRITERIA BY WHICH INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL FUNDS WILL BE USED FOR CROP AND INCOME SUBSTITUTION PROGRAMS. YOUR VIEWS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AS REFLECTED IN REFTTEL, HAVE ALSO BEEN FORWARDED TO HIM. INGERSOLL

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